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# PUBLIC HERALD

## BRIEF

*Shale gas extraction has inevitable impacts. In places like New York, the impacts are being studied before any risks are taken with the environment and people's lives. In Pennsylvania, the impacts have been happening for years, with little honest attention and almost no help for the victims. With this in mind, Public Herald has prepared the following Action Brief on behalf of those living in shale gas areas.*

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### "Everything is Downstream"

[www.tripledividefilm.org](http://www.tripledividefilm.org)

The **first** line of defense against being a victim is to be educated. Get information from many, diverse sources. Understand the specific impacts and how they are being dealt with.

The **second** line of defense is to gather baseline data. Get your water tested first. Then continue with soil, air, blood, and anything else you can think of and afford to have tested. These tests can be compared to others in the future.

**Third**, educate others. Let your township, county, state and federal officials know what you've found and how they can help. Host a Triple Divide night with your family, friends and neighbors. Write to your local papers and radio stations.

**Finally**, help those who have been impacted. Many victims feel abandoned and some are alone. Let them know it's safe for them to share their story with you.

There are many resources about shale gas extraction. Here are some of the ones we use most, many of which are focused in PA.

\*If you have health concerns you feel are related to oil and gas activity, call Southwest PA Environmental Health Project, (724) 260-5504.

\*To report an incident threatening environmental or human health, contact your local authorities, your local press, as well as PA DEP, 1-800-541-2050.

## Tracking Shale Gas Activity

### **FracTracker**

<http://www.fractracker.org/maps/>

Find wells, permits, violations, and water bodies near you; (717) 756-2637.

### **SkyTruth**

<http://alerts.skytruth.org/>

Receive email alerts when activity is in your area; (304) 885-4581.

## Water Testing & Monitoring

### **Southwest PA Environmental Health Project**

<http://www.environmentalhealthproject.org/>

Water Well Contamination Ranking System & Monitoring Strategy" by PA's only shale gas health organization; (724) 260-5504.

### **Mountain Watershed Association**

<http://www.mtwatershed.com/marcellus.html> Scroll down to "Your Water: What Can You Do?" for a list of certified water testing labs; (724) 455-4200.

### **Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring**

<http://www.dickinson.edu/about/sustainability/allarm/>

Focus on stream monitoring for background or baseline data; (717) 245-1565.

### **Triple Divide Caretakers**

<http://triplivedividecaretakers.org/>

Stream monitoring, visual assessment, public education, citizen response; (724) 388-0464; [triplivedividecaretakers@gmail.com](mailto:triplivedividecaretakers@gmail.com).

## Land, Air, Lease & Media

### **Group Against Smog & Pollution**

<http://gasp-pgh.org/>

Founded in 1969 with a focus on air quality in the Pittsburgh region; (412) 924-0604.

### **Landowners & Leasing**

Landman Report Card

<http://www.landmanreportcard.com/>

Tips for handling gas industry landmen and leasing, with landowner reviews about specific landmen.

### **Landowner's Toolkit**

[http://mtwatershed.com/resources/marcellus/120917\\_toolkit.pdf](http://mtwatershed.com/resources/marcellus/120917_toolkit.pdf)

A Marcellus Primer and leasing tips from Mountain Watershed Association; (724) 455-4200.

### **List of The Harmed**

<http://pennsylvaniaallianceforcleanwaterandair.word-press.com/the-list>

Documented cases of negative impact from shale gas extraction & development.

### **Media Covering Shale Gas**

Public Herald <http://www.publicherald.org> (724) 388-0464

ProPublica <http://propublica.org> (212) 514-5250

Allegheny Front <http://www.alleghenyfront.org/> (412) 697-2933

## Talking Points from Triple Divide

### **Predrill Tests**

1. DEP allowed Chesapeake Energy to discard a predrill test during 2011's worst pollution case revealed a ten-fold increase in water contaminants.

### **Class II Injection Well**

1. 1 of every 6 oil and gas waste injection wells have well integrity violations. <http://www.propublica.org/article/injection-wells-the-poison-beneath-us>

2. Each new well drilled acts as a Class II Injection Well, but is not permitted by EPA.

### **Pressure Bulb**

1. Where is the regulation for setting off explosives in the subsurface near groundwater aquifers, or the maximum amount of pressure permitted for fracking a gas well in Pennsylvania?

### **Nebraska Grout Study**

1. No grout that stays adhered to the casing.

### **Drill Waste Pits**

1. Drilling companies can bury shale waste, known to be radioactive, on site and are not required to notify landowners they've done so.

2. There is very little oversight and accountability with regard to shale drilling waste. Companies only have to report the amount, destination, and testing of waste once a year. Waste is not tracked per load by the state.

### **EV Pollution**

1. 80% of drinking water in PA comes from forested watersheds. Yet they, and the sensitive headwaters streams they contain, are not being protected to the full extent of the law.

2. Repeat violators of the Clean Streams Law continue to receive permits to operate near Exceptional Value and High Quality streams.

### **Civil & Environmental Rights**

1. Pennsylvania's Constitution, Article I, section 27 states: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

2. Public endangerment through neglect of duty by our regulatory, state, industry, county, and municipal officials results in civil and human rights violations punishable by law.

### **State Regulations**

1. The new oil and gas laws in PA, Act 13, allows oil and gas development to occur in residential areas and removes municipal and community rights to appropriately keep this industrial activity within industrial zones.

2. While Act 13 increases setbacks and institutes an "Impact Fee" to help deal with the negative impacts of oil and gas activity, the fee is based on wells, not pipelines, compressor station, or waste disposal sites. Setbacks from EV waters are still minimal.